UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release to PM's, JULY 12, 1963

STATE FISH AND WILDLIFE PROGRAMS GET ADDITIONAL \$6 MILLION IN ACCELERATED PUBLIC WORKS FUNDS

New allotments of Accelerated Public Works funds totaling \$6 million have been made available to States for job-creating fish and wildlife projects, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall announced today. Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands also will share in the program. The first \$6.5 million for State fish and wildlife work was made available last January.

New funds are being distributed by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Service, through the long-established Federal aid for fish and wildlife restoration programs. The money will be available until January 31, 1964. Secretary Udall said projects financed by the Accelerated Public Works program will prove of lasting value to fish and wildlife resources while simultaneously reducing unemployment.

An excellent record is being made by 35 States and Puerto Rico with the initial \$6.5 million apportionment, Secretary Udall said. A total of 212 projects are providing about 14,500 man-months of employment. In addition to this immediate economic benefit, he added, the program will improve conditions for sportsmen and for fish and wildlife resources.

Projects underway as a result of the initial \$6.5 million invove the construction of 95 buildings for fish and game agencies which will be used primarily for administrative and operational purposes. Waterfowl and waterfowl hunters will benefit from approved projects that will create 3,400 acres of impoundments and 1,750 miles of dikes. Fishermen will have 29 new fishing lakes that, in the aggregate, will impound about 4,200 acres of water.

Sportsmen facilities are high on the list of improvements, with 244 new boat ramps, 444 new parking areas, and 400 sanitary facilities to be built. Hunters, fishermen, and other outdoor enthusiasts can look forward to using nearly 400 new

camp sites. For improved access, 540 miles of roads and trails will be built for hunters and nearly 100 miles will be constructed for better access to fishing waters. Moreover, habitat improvements in the form of clearings, herbaceous plantings, timber stand thinning, field border plantings, and other improvements designed to improve food, cover and water requirements for wildlife will affect more than 65,000 acres. Many projects such as fire-breaks, fishing piers, canals, and channels are under construction.

Actual expenditure of funds occurs after individual State projects are reviewed by the Area Redevelopment Administration, U. S. Department of Commerce, and project agreements are entered into between the Department of the Interior and each State game and fish department. The Federal Government will bear up to 50 percent of the total costs, with the remainder being matched from State funds.

Allotments under the program must be invested by State game and fish departments in areas of economic distress. Such funds may be used to construct capital improvements in accordance with the regulations of the Federal Aid in Fish and Wildlife Restoration programs. Land acquisition will not be eligible. Fund distribution to the States and territories will continue on the basis of the number of unemployed persons and the number of unemployment areas in each State in relation to the total for the United States. This formula was followed in apportioning the initial funds last January.

Secretary Udall and other officials of the Department of the Interior and from the Department's Fish and Wildlife Service recently met in Washington, D. C., with key State representatives to review and revise basic guidelines for administering the program. Policies and procedures were developed to provide more latitude in the type projects that could be approved and in streamlining procedures so area quotas and eligible area information will be made available to the States more quickly.

State fish and game directors attending the conference were Frank Groves of Nevada, president of the International Association of Game and Fish Commissioners; William Towell of Missouri, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Association; Harry Woodward of Colorado, chairman of the Grants-in-Aid Committee of the Association; and Bob Aldrich of Florida, past president of the Association.

Attached is a list showing apportionment of the \$6 million now being made available to the States and to Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

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APPORTIONMENT OF ACCELERATED PUBLIC WORKS FUNDS FOR

FEDERAL AID IN FISH AND WILDLIFE RESTORATION, SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION, FISCAL YEAR 1963

Alabama	\$ 203,936	New Hampshire	\$ 23,538
Alaska	43,029	New Jersey	195,768
Arizona	17,248	New Mexico	53,550
Arkansas	200,456	New York	187,170
California	151,531	North Carolina	161,245
Colorado	44,301	North Dakota	16,819
Connecticut	42,012	Ohio	155,064
Delaware	21,848	0klah o ma	129,902
Florida	103,173	Oregon	66,830
Georgia	258,807	Pennsylvania	600,000
Hawaii	16,721	Rhode Island	32,937
Idaho	33,588	South Carolina	122,576
Illinois	107,504	South Dakota	10,258
Indiana	136,807	Tennessee	201,487
Iowa	16,611	Texas	260,501
Kansas	42,256	Utah	41,568
Kentucky	262,813	Vermon t	23,329
Louisiana	178,846	Virginia	67 ,13 3
Maine	49,645	Washington	68,881
Maryland	41,376	West Virginia	174,418
Massachusetts	120,877	Wisconsin	62,739
Michigan	494,284	Wyoming	23,753
Minnesota	83,641	Guam	13,774
Mississippi	223,575	Puerto Rico	190,371
Missouri	100,637	Virgin Islands	14,735
Montana	43,880	J	•
Nebraska	46,472	TO THAT	AC 000 000
Nevada	15,780	TOTAL	\$6,000,000

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